

the government, may be made to contribute their just and equitable share to its support. I regard this restriction in the amended constitution, and the inequality and injustice of the revenue laws of North-Carolina which are the result of that restriction, as incompatible with the great principle of democratic republican equality, upon which the constitution was framed and the government established. If that *restriction*, which was an *innovation* upon the *constitution* of *our fathers*, is incompatible with the principles upon which the government was established, that alone, if there were no other, furnishes a sufficient reason for the passage of this bill.

In establishing the position which I have assumed, it is proper that I should advert to the circumstances under which the constitution was framed and the government established, in order to a clear understanding of the objects designed to be accomplished by those who originated and organized it.

We are assembled here to day, under the provisions of a constitution professing to have been framed by the representative of the people, by the authority of the people, for the benefit of the people, and adopted by them as the organic law of the State. Then the question arises, did those who framed the constitution under the provisions of which the Senate is now in session, have the right to set up a government for their mutual and equal protection and benefit? Those who are at all familiar with the history of the government of North-Carolina, will recollect that in the year 1775, a portion of the people of the State assembled in the town of Charlotte, and passed the following resolutions:

1. "That we the people of Mecklenburg county do hereby dissolve the political bands which have connected us to the mother country, and hereby absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British Crown, and abjure all political connection, contract or association with that nation, who have wantonly trampled on our right and liberties, and inhumanly shed the blood of American patriots at Lexington.

2. "That we do hereby declare ourselves a free independent people, are, and of right ought to be, a sovereign and self-governing association, under the control of no power other than that of our God and the General Government of the Congress: to the maintenance of which independence, we